

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS THAT INJECT DRINKING WATER INTO GROUNDWATER

State Water Resources Control Board and
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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What is Aquifer Storage and Recovery?

- ▣ **Conjunctive Use** - the coordinated and planned management of surface water and groundwater resources
- ▣ **ASR** - a form of conjunctive use involving the recharge of an existing aquifer to store water from another source for later use. ASR recharge methods include:
 - Percolation ponds or recharge basins
 - Direct injection into wells

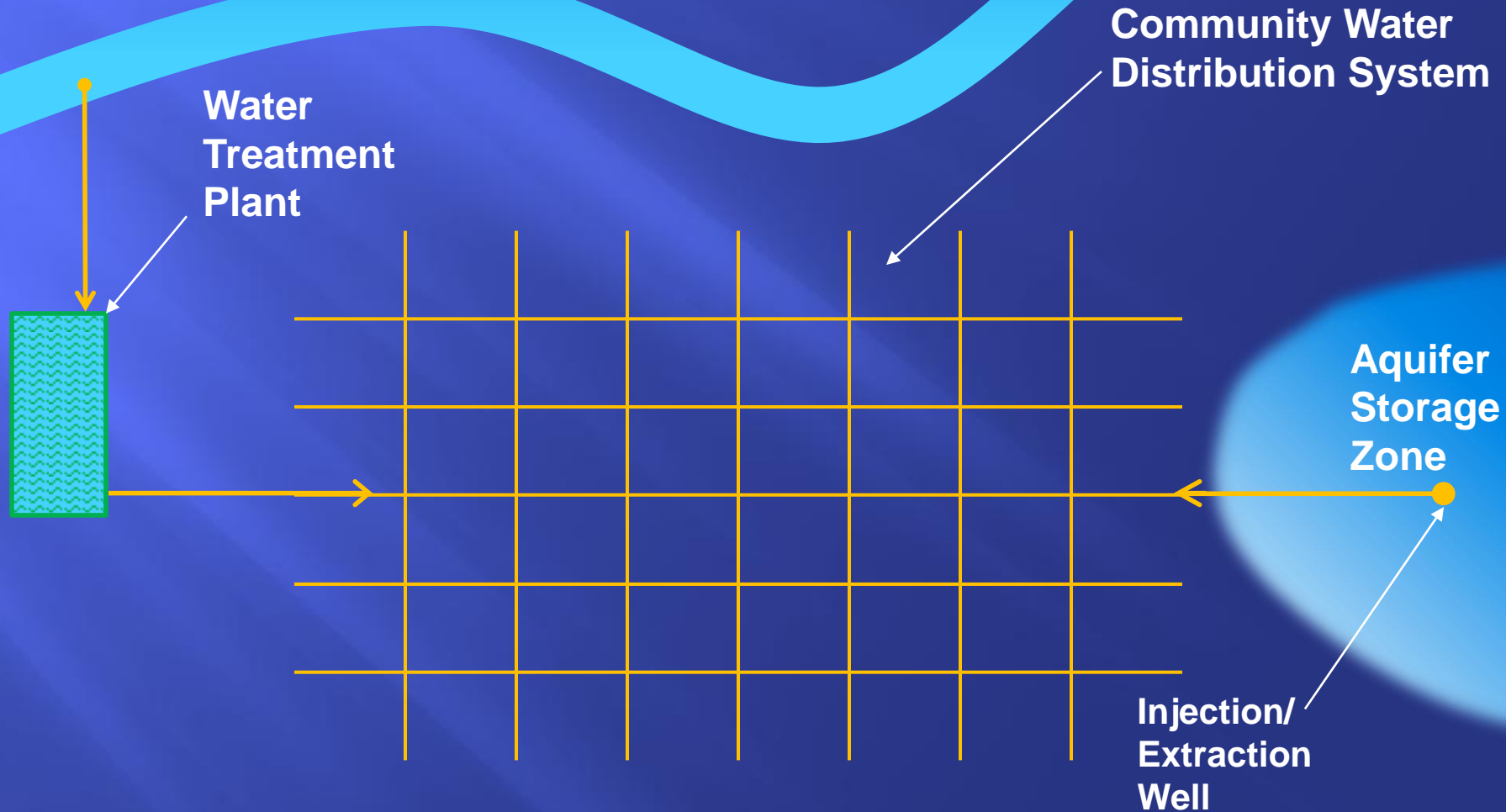
What is Proposed and Why

- ▣ The Water Code requires a Report of Waste Discharge and WDRs or a waiver for injection wells
- ▣ We propose statewide General WDRs for ASR projects that inject drinking water to:
 - Streamline the permitting process
 - Provide for statewide consistency

What Would the Proposed Statewide General WDRs Regulate?

- ▣ Only ASR projects that inject drinking water into an aquifer
- ▣ The General WDRs would not apply to ASR projects that:
 - Use recharge basins
 - Inject undisinfected surface water
 - Inject recycled water

Example ASR Project (Drinking Water Injection)



Key Features of the Proposed Statewide General WDRs

- ▣ Applicants must have valid water rights if using surface water for ASR
- ▣ Injected water must meet all drinking water standards pursuant to a valid CDPH water system permit

Key Features of the Proposed Statewide General WDRs

- ▣ Injection may cause limited groundwater degradation
- ▣ Injection may **not** cause exceedance of any water quality objective

Key Features of the Proposed Statewide General WDRs

- ▣ Characterization of the aquifer and the injected water is required for the permit application
- ▣ A pilot study may be performed to collect data needed to complete the permit application

Key Features of the Proposed Statewide General WDRs

- ▣ Permit application must show that a project will not cause exceedance of a water quality objective
- ▣ Regional Board Executive Officers can use the example monitoring and reporting program or develop their own

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

- ▣ Proposing adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the General WDRs
- ▣ Permit applicants must complete a project-specific CEQA analysis

Comments Received and Proposed Revisions

- ▣ Response to comments
- ▣ Errata Sheet

Recommendations:

1. Approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. Adopt the General WDRs with proposed revisions

